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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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1-APR-98-107

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-APR-96-107

CONTENTS

3 June 1996

CENTRAL AFRICA

Burundi

Burundi: Communal Administrator Among 50 Killed by Armed Groups *[Bujumbura Radio]* . 1

Central African Republic

CAR: Patasse's Supporters Plan March; Ex-President Views Events *[Libreville Radio]* 1

CAR: Patasse's Supporters Demonstrate in Bangui 1 Jun *[London International]* 1

CAR: Correspondent Says 'No Trouble' in Bangui; Talks Continue *[London International]* ... 2

CAR: President Patasse Says He Chooses Prime Minister *[Paris International]* 2

CAR: Government, Mutineers Reach Agreement After Negotiations *[AFP]* 3

CAR: Chadian Expatriate Voting Said Continuing Despite Recent 'Situation' *[Njamena Radio]* 3

Chad

Chad: Radio Says Voting Calm; Minor Problems Reported *[Njamena Radio]* 3

Chad: Voting Ends With High Turnout; No Unrest Reported *[London International]* 4

Zaire

Zaire: Soldiers Reportedly Fire Weapons in Goma 1 Jun *[AFP]* 4

Zaire: Relative Calm Returns to Goma; Sporadic Shots Still Heard *[AFP]* 4

Zaire: Third Presidential Candidate Registers for Elections *[Libreville Radio]* 5

EAST AFRICA

Eritrea

Eritrea: Yemeni, Eritrean Delegations Hold Talks in France *[Asmara Radio]* 6

Kenya

Kenya: Rebel Factional Fighting Reported in Eastern Upper Nile *[Nairobi TV]* 6

Tanzania

Tanzania: Prime Minister, Rwandan Foreign Minister Discuss Refugees *[Dar es Salaam Radio]* 6

Uganda

Uganda: Army Reportedly Kills 20 'Rebels' 31 May *[THE NEW VISION 1 Jun]* 6

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa: Desmond Tutu Resigns as Archbishop of Southern Africa *[Johannesburg TV]* 7

South African Press Review for 31 May *[BUSINESS DAY 31 May, etc.]* 7

WEST AFRICA

Ghana

Ghana: Demonstrators Protest Planned Reopening of Voters Register *[London International]* 8

Liberia

Liberia: Krahn Militias Reportedly Refuse To Leave Military Barracks *[AFP]* 8

Liberia: International Mediators Deplore Attitude of Krahns [AFP]	8
Nigeria	
Nigeria: UN Proposal To Send Fact-Finding Mission Accepted [Lagos Radio]	9
Nigeria: Niger Military Leader Says Nigeria Now To Train Personnel [Lagos Radio]	9
Nigeria: Authorities Launch Inquiry Into Explosion at Arms Factory [London International] .	9
Nigeria: Government Rules Out Sabotage in Arms Factory Blast [AFP]	9
Sierra Leone	
Sierra Leone: 18 Killed in Rebel Raids in North [London International]	9
Sierra Leone: RUF Denies Any Involvement in Reported Attacks in North [London International]	10

Burundi

Burundi: Communal Administrator Among 50 Killed by Armed Groups

EA0206133396 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The security situation in Ruyigi is bad in most of the communes like Butezi and Butaganzwa, where the [communal] administrator, Stanislas Ndayisaba, has been murdered by armed groups. For more details we telephoned the Ruyigi governor:

[Begin Ruyigi Governor's recording] I start with the communes which were most shaken, starting with the Butezi commune, where we have just lost about 50 people following an attack by [words indistinct]. We also have the Butaganzwa commune, where the attack (?came) from and where we have just lost the communal administrator following the criminals' attack.

In other communes the situation is also tense, as in Ruyigi commune [words indistinct], the (Nyabitsinda) commune, which also has problems because it neighbors Butaganzwa commune. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon the people, all tribes indiscriminately, to remain united. [words indistinct] [end recording]

Central African Republic

CAR: Patasse's Supporters Plan March; Ex-President Views Events

AB0106171396 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Central African Republic [CAR], a march in support of President Ange-Felix Patasse was planned for this morning in Bangui, the capital. The demonstration was initiated by the CAR head of state's supporters.

Meanwhile, negotiations are still going on between the mutineers and the government under the supervision of mediator Nicolas Tiangaye, chairman of the CAR Human Rights League [LCADH]. Rodrigue Asseyi, our correspondent in the CAR capital, has the details:

[Begin Asseyi recording] The general agreement between the government and the instigators of the Bangui mutiny is very much expected. The two sides are currently negotiating in the capital under the supervision of Mr. Tiangaye, the mediator and LCADH chairman. The tension prevailing in the hall increased at a certain time as Sergeant Cyriaque Souke raised his voice, stressing that no arms will be handed over as long as the militiamen are not disarmed. Also, one of the mutineers' leaders challenged Article 6 of the draft agreement in

particular. The article provides for two commissions instead of one for the disarmament. On this precise point, the soldiers suspect the government of trying to trap them. That is not true, Prime Minister Gabriel Koyambounou replied, adding that the situation is so serious that a consensus is necessary. He further stated that his government is currently demonstrating good faith. To defuse the tension, the LCADH chairman suggested that each point of the document be reexamined. The various subcommissions are now examining the bottlenecks.

Outside the hall, precisely at the Kasai camp, where the mutineers are based, the soldiers are getting impatient, while in town, people are still expecting the results of the negotiations. [end recording]

For the first time, since the beginning of the Bangui events, the Central African Democratic Rally [RDC], the former only ruling party, has broken up the silence it has observed so far. General Andre Kolingba, former head of state and RDC leader, told our special correspondent why he could no longer continue to keep quiet on the events. Let us listen to former President Kolingba:

[Begin Kolingba recording] I think that President Patasse underrates a bit the importance of the problems confronting the military. When there is breach of confidence between the head of state and his people on the one hand and between the president of the Republic — commander in chief of the Armed Forces — and his Army on the other, there is danger of death. I know those soldiers from being with them since the creation of the CAR Armed Forces. I am one of those who created the CAR Armed Forces, that is our Army, which is the symbol of the integrity of the nation, security, and national peace. I think that President Patasse should tackle the present problem with a bit of flexibility, by constantly paying attention to the Army's complaints. [end recording]

CAR: Patasse's Supporters Demonstrate in Bangui 1 Jun

AB0106185396 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 1 Jun 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Demonstrators have again been out on the streets of the CAR [Central African Republic] capital, Bangui, to show their support for the government of President Ange Patasse. It is the latest in a series of protests both for and against the government that had taken place since last month's Army mutiny. Although the mutineers agreed to end their rebelling following French mediation, they are still

negotiating with the government over their grievances. On today's demonstration, Joseph Benamsse telexed this report from Bangui:

During the march, the demonstrators chanted pro-government slogans and praised France for its intervention which put an end to the Army mutiny that started two weeks ago. Demonstrators also brandished placards proclaiming: No To Civil War And No To A Coup D'Etat or Long Live President Patasse and Chirac. Today's demonstration is perceived by many as the ruling party's response to a series of anti-government marches in the capital, protesting against the French military action to crush the mutineers. Another anti-government demonstration planned for this morning was postponed until Monday [3 June]. [passage omitted]

CAR: Correspondent Says 'No Trouble' in Bangui; Talks Continue

AB3105171696 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 31 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The beleaguered president of the Central African Republic, Ange-Felix Patasse, has been holding talks with opposition parties and representatives of his mutinous soldiers today. The aim is to reach an agreement, among other things, on the terms of an amnesty and the appointment of a new prime minister. But they were never going to be easy-going, what with French troops still holding key positions in Bangui and the soldiers still jumpy. On the line to Bangui, Tom Porteus asked our reporter Joseph Benamsse if there had been any trouble today.

[Begin recording] [Benamsse] Truly speaking, there was no trouble in the capital, Bangui, this morning, but it was shortly before 1200 that people heard some gunfire around the presidential palace. So, according to sources coming from this presidential palace, nothing important has taken place, and it was only a presidential guard who was maintaining his gun that made the mistake to open fire. But, as far as the mutineers are concerned, none of them has gone out today.

[Porteus] So when are these negotiations that are going on going to be over?

[Benamsse] We don't know exactly when these negotiations are going to end, but sources close to the presidency said that maybe by tomorrow we will have a clear idea about what the profile of the new prime minister will be.

[Porteus] And, what exactly are the terms of reference of these negotiations?

[Benamsse] Everything is kept in secrecy. We have not known anything about the condition required for the new prime minister, but as far as the opposition is concerned, sources close to the Democratic Council of the Opposition [Codepo] — that is an umbrella organization that includes seven political parties — that Codepo wants the prime minister to be appointed within the opposition. But, sources close to the ruling MLPC [Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People] party said that they want the prime minister to come from the ruling party. So we are now facing a dilemma over the appointment of this prime minister.

[Porteus] And, have the mutineers got anything at all to do with these negotiations?

[Benamsse] The mutineers have nothing to do with these negotiations given that they were already granted amnesty by the National Assembly yesterday, and sources close to the mutineers say that the promulgation of the law over amnesty has created a certain satisfaction among the mutineers, and of late, they say that they are going to hold talks with the government over the sacking of the head of the presidential security and many other points mentioned in their agenda earlier.

[Porteus] Well, when are those talks going to take place?

[Benamsse] Sources close to the mutineers say that the talks between the government and mutineers are to start this afternoon, but I cannot confirm whether it has started yet. [end recording]

CAR: President Patasse Says He Chooses Prime Minister

LD3105110996 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Central Africa now, with President Ange-Felix Patasse. Yesterday the Central African head of state embarked on a series of consultations on the future of his country. In particular, he had another meeting with opposition parties, which are asking him to name a new prime minister who does not come from his party ranks, and President Patasse agreed, as he confirmed to our correspondent Jean-Jacques Louarne.

[Begin recording] [Patasse] It will be a prime minister who is not from the ranks of a political party. This is a concession, a very big concession I am making by agreeing, because the MLPC [Central African People's Liberation Movement] won the elections, and it is usual for the prime minister to come from the MLPC — that is what happens in every democratic system. However, I asked my party to agree to this additional concession, and the party backed me. It is we who have the majority

in the National Assembly, and I think the problem lies in choosing the right person.

[Louarne] Will we have a name by the end of the week?

[Patasse] By the end of the week, you will have a name.

[Louarne] You know the position of the parties and the Codepo (Democratic Council of Opposition Parties). They have made a number of observations, in particular about amending the constitution to give the future prime minister enhanced powers. What will happen in this respect? Are you willing to modify the constitution?

[Patasse] Any initiatives about the constitution must be made by the president and the assembly, and I will not be led into modifying the constitution by one group of citizens.

[Louarne] Is Central African politics — and therefore the choice of prime minister — determined in Bangui?

[Patasse] Absolutely. It is I alone who will decide on the choice of prime minister, no one but me.

[Louarne] What sort of government do you wish to put in place? Who will be involved in it?

[Patasse] All people of good will who are ready to join me to ensure that the course of action we have agreed with the IMF is maintained, in other words, the economic, political, and financial memorandum signed with the Bretton Woods institutions.

[Louarne] What happens next? Will it not involve a reform of the army and senior defense bodies?

[Patasse] Of course. These are also priorities because our army is in decay. It is unacceptable that in a country which is a state of law, the army can behave in this way. So, the senior defense bodies will look at all aspects of a soldier's life and see what strategy should be put in place to ensure that our army regains its credibility, because if we look at the situation as it is now the army has been rejected by the people. Therefore, my duty is to make sure that the people can rehabilitate their army, accept it, and adopt it. [end recording]

CAR: Government, Mutineers Reach Agreement After Negotiations

AB0206134996 Paris AFP in French
2128 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 1 Jun (AFP) — An agreement was reached yesterday evening between the mutinous Central African Armed Forces and the authorities in Bangui. The disclosure was made at the National Assembly after four days of negotiations.

The agreement notably provides for the holding shortly of the Army general delegates conference, proposed by

President Ange-Felix Patasse following the mutiny by a section of the military in April.

The proposed Army delegates conference will largely discuss all the problems confronting the Army and the living conditions of soldiers.

CAR: Chadian Expatriate Voting Said Continuing Despite Recent 'Situation'

AB0106145496 Ndjamenia Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Voting by Chadians in the Central African Republic [CAR], which began yesterday, continues today despite difficulties concerning the chaotic situation in that country. From Bangui, our special correspondent, Matioke Gonjoke Kabe, sent us this report:

[Begin Kabe recording] Voting by Chadians in the CAR began yesterday. A total of twenty-nine polling stations were opened throughout the country, with eight in Bangui and 21 in the interior of the country. Regarding the capital, Bangui, voting effectively began yesterday, although it was observed that voters did not turn up in their numbers. The situation was the same in the interior of the country owing to certain difficulties created by the recent mutiny by a part of the CAR Army. The consequence was that it was only yesterday evening that the voting equipment and members of the polling stations were sent to the ground. Meanwhile, there are no major voting problems in Bangui, except for the fact that the opposition parties have refused to send their delegates to supervise the polling stations which have been set up outside the chancery. [end recording]

Chad

Chad: Radio Says Voting Calm; Minor Problems Reported

AB0206211296 Ndjamenia Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Summary] "The first round of the presidential election at home and abroad ends today." Our correspondent, Abou Saleh, who toured Ndjamenia today, reports on how the election took place in some districts of Ndjamenia, the capital:

[Saleh] "All the polling stations in the second district shut their doors at 1800 as scheduled. Anxious, with their hands on the hips and looking serious, a number of people were still standing there expecting the first results of this first round of the presidential election. Vote counting is still going on, and in the coming hours, we will know the first results of the poll."

"In the third district of the capital, the election went on in a calm and disciplined atmosphere with the presence of security forces which properly played their role. They ensured the security of citizens and good organization of the poll. However, some problems were reported at some polling stations of the third district, mainly lack of voting papers of some candidates. The voting papers were insufficient at a number of places, while delegates of some political parties were absent." Also in some other places, a number of voters were prevented from voting. "Apart from those cases, everything went on normally. At some polling stations, some supervisors were forced to extend the closing time from 1800 to 1830 as a result of high turnout." They provided for hurricane lamps in case of power cut.

Chad: Voting Ends With High Turnout; No Unrest Reported

*AB0206184096 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 2 Jun 96*

[From the African news]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Voting has ended in Chad in the country's first presidential election since independence more than 30 years ago. A BBC correspondent in the capital, Ndjamena, says the turnout of voters there has been high and that there have been no reports of unrest. More than 100 international monitors were deployed around the country during polling. They will be reporting tomorrow.

Voters are choosing between 15 candidates for the presidency, including the incumbent, Idriss Deby, who seized power in 1990. His party is the only one with a nationwide structure, and our correspondent says he is expected to do well, but he adds that it remains uncertain whether President Deby will have secured sufficient votes to avoid a second round of voting. Final results are not expected for several days. France, the former colonial power, has insisted on the election in return for continued economic aid.

Zaire

Zaire: Soldiers Reportedly Fire Weapons in Goma 1 Jun

*AB0206144396 Paris AFP in French
2118 GMT 1 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kinshasa, 1 Jun (AFP) — Violent gunshots and bursts of automatic weapons fire by soldiers have been heard since early this afternoon in Goma, the capital of Nord-Kivu, eastern Zaire, according to UNHCR reports.

A UNHCR official in Goma said the incidents started after a military convoy had been attacked by unknown

gunmen. This led to the death of three soldiers of the Armed Forces of Zaire.

The comrades of the dead soldiers reportedly protested their burial in Goma, insisting that their corpses be sent back to Kinshasa. For some undisclosed reasons, the incident degenerated and the soldiers spread out in town, shooting hand gun and automatic weapons.

The Goma airport was closed to air traffic this afternoon, according to airport sources. It was still unknown at the end of the day whether the incidents had led to any casualties. The deputy prime minister of interior, Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda, confirmed to AFP that "some uncontrolled soldiers got angry" over the burial of their colleagues who were killed while they were returning from a mission to Virunga game reserve, near Goma.

"They had demanded that the bodies of the dead soldiers be returned to Kinshasa and this had led to some incidents," the deputy minister stated without further elaborating, "but the situation is now under control."

Zaire: Relative Calm Returns to Goma; Sporadic Shots Still Heard

*AB0206160596 Paris AFP in French
1053 GMT 2 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kinshasa, 2 Jun (AF) — Relative calm returned this morning to Goma, east Zaire, after sporadic gunfire and automatic weapons fire had been heard all day yesterday until the evening. The airport, however, still remained closed to air traffic, according to reports by the UNHCR.

UN sources further indicated that a UN fact-finding mission to assess the situation in Zaire, scheduled to leave for Goma today has been canceled and postponed to tomorrow "security conditions permitting."

Official Zairian sources reported that the incidents occurred yesterday when soldiers, who called for the transfer to Kinshasa of bodies of their comrades killed in an ambush, got "angry" and went on a shooting spree in the town whose streets were deserted.

The deputy regional governor contacted by telephone confirmed to AFP that Goma airport still remained closed this morning and that some sporadic gunshots could still be heard. He said he still did not know whether yesterday's incidents had led to casualties. However, he reported various looting incidents in shops situated between the airport and town center.

The deputy regional government said the "disciplined" units of the Army started patrolling the town this morning. According to him, the three soldiers, who died in the ambush, belonged to a unit of the Armed Forces

of Zaire [FAZ] charged with ensuring security at Goma Airport. It was soldiers of this unit who triggered the incidents in demand for the transfer of the bodies of their comrades.

On 31 May a FAZ convoy, returning from a security mission in Virunga reserves, 150 km away from Goma, was ambushed by unknown gunmen. Three soldiers died and seven others were seriously injured following the ambush. The attack occurred between the Katale and Kibumba refugee camps, about 40 and 20 km from Goma.

There are about 700,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees in the Goma region. Some of them have infiltrated the Virunga reserves and the vicinity of Masisi and they give a helping hand to their compatriots, who have long settled in the region, in attacking the local population and Tutsis who have also long settled there with the aim of snatching their lands from them.

Zaire: Third Presidential Candidate Registers for Elections

AB0206202596 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*
1215 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Zaire, where presidential elections have been slated for next year, a third candidate has been registered. He is Antoine Bubulu Koi Bulonda, leader of the National Unity Party [PUNA]. From Kinshasa, Kamanda wa Kamanda Muzembe reports:

[Begin Muzembe recording] We cannot leave the management of the country in the hands of adventurers and people with no credibility who will further aggravate the suffering of the people in the future, Antoine Bubulu Koi Bulonda justified his candidacy for next year's pres-

idential elections in these terms. He announced his intention to run in the presidential elections at the People's Palace, headquarters of the High Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament.

Officially 43 years old, Antoine Bubulu Koi Bulonda returned to the country after spending 11 years in exile. He contends that the Third Republic will be governed by his party, the PUNA. He says he is convinced that he will beat all his opponents, I quote, most of whom spent their time plundering the country. He declined to reveal his social development program and simply said he plans to repair the roads and hospitals six months after he takes office.

Antoine Bubulu Koi Bulonda said he was opposed to the idea of a balanced and equitable share of posts based on considerations other than competence, especially as it concerns public enterprises. In his view, this practice is a sheer political subterfuge that is not too different from that sorry policy — of sad memory — of employing and appointing only Zairians to various positions, which was the root cause of the misery being suffered by our people.

Bubulu Koi Bulonda gave the Kengo government a 30-day ultimatum to expel foreigners most of whom reside illegally in the country and are engaged in plundering the country's wealth. The PUNA candidate further said he did higher studies in astrology in India, learned the detective and shadowing profession in Germany, and was a student at the military academy of the Netherlands, after spending two-year at the Public Administration Professional Institute. For the past six years, he has been heading a government in exile based in Brussels. [end recording]

Eritrea

Eritrea: Yemeni, Eritrean Delegations Hold Talks in France

EA3105190496 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0930 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Eritrean and Yemeni Government delegations held talks in Paris on 29 and 30 May, in the presence of the French Government representative. Both sides presented their remarks and comments on the French Government's arbitration proposal. It can be recalled that both countries signed an agreement in principle on 21 May.

The meeting was held in accordance with the agreement reached on 21 May. It was held in a brotherly and constructive spirit, and was very positive, a correspondent at the venue disclosed. The two sides will meet again on 1 and 2 July in the presence of the French Government and will continue to discuss the modalities of the arbitration. [passage indistinct]

Kenya

Kenya: Rebel Factional Fighting Reported in Eastern Upper Nile

EA0206141496 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1000 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from the South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM] say forces loyal to John Garang launched an attack on [the] South Sudan Independence Army [SSIA] at Pagak military base. In a statement, an SSIM spokesman based in Nairobi, David de Chan, said that there was intense fighting for two hours and the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] were overpowered. Military equipment including [a] short-range communications radio, rifles and communications and logistic equipment were captured. De Chan appealed to the civil population to cooperate with the SSIA to weed out SPLA renegades who might be hiding in the area.

Tanzania

Tanzania: Prime Minister, Rwandan Foreign Minister Discuss Refugees

EA3105191196 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 1600 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye has said Tanzania will continue to cooperate with Rwanda to ensure that Rwandan refugees in the country go home. Mr. Sumaye said Tanzania has decided to adopt this course because it believes that the return of the refugees will enable the Rwandan

Government to restore peace and tranquillity in the country.

The prime minister was talking in his office in Dar es Salaam with Dr. Anastase Gasana, the Rwandan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Mr. Sumaye expressed satisfaction with the efforts being made by Rwanda to repatriate hundreds of refugees living here in the country. He stressed that it will be good for all citizens of Rwanda, including refugees living outside Rwanda, to be involved in their country's political system. He advised the Rwandan Government to step up its efforts to persuade and assist its refugees to return home. [passage omitted]

Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastase Gasana assured the prime minister that Rwanda is doing all it can to ensure that its refugees return home. Dr. Gasana said in three weeks from now, the Rwandan Government will send several of its ministers to Tanzania at different times to persuade the refugees to return to Rwanda. [passage omitted]

Uganda

Uganda: Army Reportedly Kills 20 'Rebels' 31 May

EA0106134596 Kampala THE NEW VISION in English 1 Jun 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Heavy gunfire rocked Aringa County in Arua District yesterday as the Army and rebels fought morning battles. Sounds of heavy fighting could be heard from Arua town by midday as the Uganda People's Defense Forces engaged rebels of Juma Oris's West Nile Bank Front. The Army could not speedily avail details.

On Thursday [30 May] in another battle in Kifwa-Wazi in Koboko County, 20 rebels were killed and another one captured when they attempted to attack Army positions. Five soldiers were reportedly injured in the second attack on Kifwa-Wazi in a week, Army sources confirmed.

The Army said about 500 rebels fled back to their in Sudan and left behind many guns and ammunition. [sentence as published] "After the battle of the previous day, rebels thought we had relaxed and were therefore making a surprise attack. They fell in our ambush and they faced the fire," an officer who was in the battle said.

The Army said the captured arms and ammunition from the rebels included 10 sub-machine-guns, one general purpose machine-gun, one 60 mm mortar, one two-inch mortar, one recoiling [as published] shell and ammunition. [passage omitted]

South Africa: Desmond Tutu Resigns as Archbishop of Southern Africa

MB0306063796 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0400 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said farewell to his southern African diocese with a plea for peace, and a warning that crime, corruption and greed could destroy the democracy he's helped to bring to South Africa.

More than 7,000 people packed into Cape Town's biggest exhibition hall on Sunday [2 June] to hear his last sermon as head of the Anglican church in southern Africa. Archbishop Tutu retired at the end of this month after serving in this position for 10 years. He will, however, continue as chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Clergy and parishioners have to decide between Johannesburg's Bishop Duncan Buchanan, or Kimberley's Bishop Winston Ndungane to succeed Archbishop Tutu.

South African Press Review for 31 May

MB3105125596

[FBIS Report]

BUSINESS DAY

ANC-IFP Rapprochement Favorable — "It would be understandable if ANC and IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] groping towards detente in KwaZulu/Natal were to be dismissed as the latest in a long series of failed peace initiatives," states a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 31 May. "But the ANC and IFP provincial leaders who have held talks in recent weeks appear to be approaching matters in a more constructive spirit." Both sides appear to be recognizing that "there can be no military solution in a province as deeply divided as KwaZulu/Natal." Also, the National Party's withdrawal from the government of national unity, appears "to have been a potent catalyst in the reassessment of the parties' relationship." "The unity of blacks, and the parties representing them, has moved to the top of the agenda. Ideological hatred appears to be giving way to a recognition that the ANC and the IFP have one crucial thing in common — mass following

of the poorest of the poor." All the talking that has now taken place in the province "may evaporate in the white heat of the local government election contest," but "the conditions for a rapprochement are more favourable than ever."

NEW NATION

Criticism of Response to COSATU Threat — "Politicians have responded with an unexpected degree of naivete to COSATU's [Congress of South African Trade Unions] decision to protest the interest rate hike initiated by commercial banks," begins a page-8 editorial in Johannesburg **NEW NATION** in English on 31 May. The paper would have expected politicians to "defend the right to orderly protest." "What needs to be appreciated is that COSATU's decision to challenge banks comes against an overwhelming public perception that banks had openly colluded." Therefore, any popular social formation "which keeps quiet in the face of such conduct is not worth its salt." **NEW NATION** goes on to comment on the "apparent tensions between labour and business" which "seems to have been exaggerated out of proportion to the social context within which it has manifested." South African society has "historically been deeply divided, both along racial and economic lines" and the healing process will be "a very long and enduring one." "An appreciation of this reality will do much more for investor confidence than calls from politicians for workers to act with caution."

MAIL & GUARDIAN

Call For Firm Privatization Policy — "The privatisation pendulum has swung backwards and forwards for many months now, so there are many who hope that President Nelson Mandela's firm words in Germany indicate the arrival of clear policy," states a page-22 editorial in Johannesburg **MAIL & GUARDIAN** in English for 31 May-6 June. "Privatisation must happen not because of international pressure, or because of short-term gains, but because there is a clearly enunciated policy and strategy which explains how and why it is being approached, and what the end-goal is. It is the absence of this which lies behind the current confusion and contradictory approaches."

Ghana

Ghana: Demonstrators Protest Planned Reopening of Voters Register

AB010620i396 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 1 Jun 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets of the capital of Ghana's Ashanti Region, Kumasi, to protest to the change in electoral procedure. The electoral commission is planning to reopen the voters register, and the protesters suspect ulterior motives. From Kumasi Kwabena Sarpong Akosa telexed this report:

The demonstrators were mostly supporters of Ghana's two main opposition parties, the NPP [New Patriotic Party] and the PCP [People's Convention Party]. Some banged drums, others sang war chants, throwing their fists in the air; others carried placards bearing slogans like: Don't Reopen The Voters Register, Spare Ghana A Civil War, and We Need Peace. The march took off and ended at the city center. It started with about 1,000 people, but the crowd thickened as it progressed and cheering by-standers joined in.

Addressing a brief rally at the end of the march, the spokesman of the demonstrators, Nana Kwasi Kuanteng, called on Ghanaians to resist what he described as a design by the electoral commission to bloat the voters' register to the advantage of the ruling NDC [National Democratic Congress] party in the upcoming elections. He urged Ghanaians to maintain the pressure until the electoral commission dropped the whole idea of reopening the register. [passage omitted]

Liberia

Liberia: Krahn Militias Reportedly Refuse To Leave Military Barracks

AB0106133996 Paris AFP in English
1249 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, June 1 (AFP) — Krahn militias occupying a military barracks Saturday [1 June] rejected suggestions that they return to their rural bases, saying rival Liberian forces were present there.

The Krahn wing of the United Liberation Movement said the towns of Kakata and Bong Mines areas, which the faction previously controlled, were unsafe. It said the faction would not leave the Monrovia barracks, known as the Barclay Training Center, until the rival forces quit the towns.

Sources in the African peacekeeping force ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] said that Friday it had provided five trucks to transport the fighters to their bases in rural Liberia but they refused to leave, citing insecurity.

Forces loyal to warlord Charles Taylor in early March overrun Kakata and Bong Mines in clashes with the Krahn faction and later turned the towns over to the peacekeeping force, but have since maintained a presence in those areas.

Kakata is 55 kilometers northeast of Monrovia, and Bong Mines is 75 kilometers north of the capital.

The Krahn also demanded that Taylor's forces and those loyal to an allied warlord, Alhaji Krohmah, withdraw completely from Monrovia.

The Krahn faction has been occupying the Barclay barracks since early April when police acting on orders from Taylor, part of a collegial presidency, tried to arrest Krahn leader Roosevelt Johnson on charges of murder. This prompted another flareup in the Liberian civil war, which was supposed to have ended with the signing of a peace agreement in August.

At a regional summit on May 7, west African states called on the Krahn to quit the barracks.

Liberia: International Mediators Deplore Attitude of Krahns

AB0306131096 Paris AFP in French
1206 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Monrovia, 3 Jun (AFP) — International mediators trying to find a peaceful solution to the Liberian conflict today deplored Krahn fighters' refusal to leave the Barclay Training Center [BTC] in the Liberian capital. In a joint statement, Kojo Tsikata, special representative of Jerry Rawlings, current chairman of Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], UN Envoy to Liberia Anthony Nyaki, and the U.S. ambassador to Liberia, William Milam, said Krahn fighters accepted the terms at a meeting held on 30 May to be evacuated to areas under their control outside the capital.

According to the Ghanaian emissary, the UN envoy, and the American diplomat, the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia [ULIMO-K], and the Liberian Peace Council fighters should have left the BTC by latest 31 May, but when ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group and UN observer trucks came to the BTC to evacuate them, the fighters refused to leave the center. [passage omitted]

Nigeria

Nigeria: UN Proposal To Send Fact-Finding Mission Accepted

AB0106190296 *Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1800 GMT 1 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria has informed the United Nations of its acceptance of the proposal to send a UN fact-finding mission to the Bakassi peninsula. A UN spokesman, Sylvana Foa, announced in New York that the acceptance was conveyed to the secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, in a letter from the head of state, General Sani Abacha.

He said, however, that the head of state had asked that he be consulted on the mandate, terms of reference, and membership of the proposed mission. Foa said that the secretary general welcomed the positive response to the proposal from both Nigeria and Cameroon.

Nigeria and Cameroon had clashed several times since 1994 over the peninsula and the dispute had been twice referred to the UN Security Council. It is currently pending before the International Court of Justice.

Nigeria: Niger Military Leader Says Nigeria Now To Train Personnel

AB0106191296 *Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 1 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military personnel from the Republic of Niger are now to be trained in Nigeria. The chief of defense staff of Niger Republic, Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Moussa Gros, stated this during a visit to the Commanding Staff College gardens in Kaduna State. Lt. Col. Gros said his country (has so far trained its) military personnel in the Western countries.

Col. Moussa Gros praised the high quality training at the college and said the institution was capable of training military personnel from other African countries. The Commanding Staff College trains officers from other countries like [name indistinct] Rwanda, South Korea, and [words indistinct].

Nigeria: Authorities Launch Inquiry Into Explosion at Arms Factory

AB0206190296 *London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 2 Jun 96*

[From the African news]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The authorities in Nigeria have launched an inquiry into an explosion at an arms factory in the northern city of Kaduna on Friday [31 May] night. Newspaper reports said that at least one person was feared to have been killed. Correspondents, who

visited the site, said the explosion had caused extensive damage and had been heard by residents several miles away. It came a month after two explosions at military installations in Lagos in which several people were injured. In January, there were series of bombs in northern Nigeria in which one person died.

Nigeria: Government Rules Out Sabotage in Arms Factory Blast

AB0206153096 *Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 2 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, Jun 2 (AFP) — A huge explosion at a weapons plant killed one person in Kaduna City in northern Nigeria, a newspaper reported Sunday [2 June].

The blast, at a government-owned defense Industries Corporation factory making light arms, happened late Friday. Witnesses said the explosion threw huge flames into the sky and caused panic in the neighboring Kakuri area of the city, the SUNDAY TIMES said.

The cause of the explosion was still not known Sunday, but a government official who visited the scene ruled out sabotage.

Residents said it was the fifth such blast in the city within the past year, with other explosions being reported at the New Nigeria Development Corporation, the national television building, the city's police headquarters and a prestigious local hotel, where at least one person was killed in January.

Explosions have also been reported at two Lagos military barracks within the past two months.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: 18 Killed in Rebel Raids in North

AB3105211196 *London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 31 May 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the peace talks between the Sierra Leone Government and the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels on the back burner since they ran into a brick wall earlier this week over foreign troops, the fear is that the country will slip back into civil war. Ever since the cease-fire declared by the rebels in March, there have been attacks by rebels in the north of the country, especially in the Tonkolili area, and there has been a fresh spate of raids recently, as our correspondent Sylvester Rogers reports in this telex from Makeni:

At least 18 people have been killed and more wounded in recent attacks by RUF rebels on a number of villages in the Bonkaleke and Tani chiefdoms in the Tonkolili District over the past week. I visited the village of Maroroko where the wounded are at present hospitalized, and over 5,000 villagers who escaped are now sheltering in an abandoned compound.

Survivors there told me how their relatives were massacred. According to Mr. Mohamed Conte, 11 people were killed at Makbema Village. In the village of Metevu-Mayawa, the chief and another village leader were killed when they failed to assemble the inhabitants for the rebels. Eyewitnesses said the rebels told them that the reason for the attacks was anger at the sight of the villagers running away from them when they should consider them as saviors.

Alhassan al-Karuma in Maroroko Village, who I met, had his right arm smashed by bullets, his left ear chopped off, and a deep head wound. Another man, Amadu Kamara of Nagasi Village, was also shot when trying to escape. Survivors of the attack went on to recount how an RUF commander seeing Amadu Kamara dying and bleeding, ordered a doctor from his ranks to provide first aid. According to Mr. J. M. Bure, an agricultural extension worker in the Bonkalenke chiefdom, there are now 5,335 displaced people at Maroroko. More are said to be on their way, driven by the rebels who are bent on stopping all farming activity.

Sierra Leone: RUF Denies Any Involvement in Reported Attacks in North

*AB0106210196 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 1 Jun 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yesterday we reported on a series of attacks by armed men on villages in the north of Sierra Leone. At least, 18 people were killed and several wounded in the attacks which took place in the Tonkolili District. Although RUF [Revolutionary United Front] are meant to be observing a cease-fire which they declared in March, they've been blamed for these latest violations. Well, we were contacted today by RUF spokesman Faya Musa, who denied rebel involvement. Elizabeth Ohene asked him what he had to say:

[Begin recording] [Musa] What I have got to say in reaction to that is that these messages are an anti-RUF campaign, which are designed by people — unscrupulous members of the Sierra Leone society — to derail the peace process because, as a matter of fact, the RUF has no fighters in that area. Since we announced the cease-fire — the unilateral cease-fire — two months ago, we have made sure that our combatants are properly encamped and under proper military care.

[Ohene] As far as you know, is there any military activity at all in that area?

[Musa] We have no idea about that. I have just got in contact with our field commander. He says he has no idea about any military activities in that area. In fact, what our combatants are doing now is that they are farming. Right from Kailahun to all the areas they occupy, they are all engaged in farming now because we told them that the cease-fire period is meant to restore peace to Sierra Leone. So, they are not engaged in any form of fighting at all. All the statements, all the stories you are gathering from people in Sierra Leone now, especially the government, are an anti-RUF campaign meant to derail the peace process but as long as we breathe the free air of God, that will not be possible at all. We must see that peace is restored back to the nation.

[Ohene] Actually, this particular story didn't come from the government. It came from a reporter who spoke to survivors of the attack.

[Musa] Yes, it happens that way. What I am saying is that the RUF itself has not been involved in fighting. We don't know about any military activities here. That is not ruling out the fact that some disaffected members of the society there cannot do that. That is not what we are saying. What I am saying basically is that RUF has not been involved in any fighting in that place at all but it is possible because the present government still has the Kamajos, still has the ULIMOs [United Liberations Movement for Democracy in Liberia], still has the vigilantes; they still have a group of armed men that they have no control over. So, I mean, it is possible there is some military action but that one we don't know. [end recording]

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